

WO 2005/071291

PCT/GB2005/000141

CLAIMS

1. A seal having at least one aperture through which lubricant can pass and at least one track detachably secured to, and extending along, at least part of the length of at least one surface of the seal.
2. A seal according to claim 1, wherein the seal takes the form of at least one hollow annular ring.
3. A seal according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the seal is made from an elastomeric material.
4. A seal according to claim 3, wherein the seal is made from a formulated elastomeric compound having resillience such as rubber-like.
5. A seal according to claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the seal is formed as an elongated elastomeric extrusion.
6. A seal according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the track or each is interchangeable with a further track of the same design.
7. A seal according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the or each track has a material strip attached thereto.
8. A seal according to claim 7, wherein the material strip is formed from fibrous material.
9. A seal according to claim 8, wherein the material strip is porous.
10. A seal according to any preceding claim, wherein the seal has at least one aperture enabling the lubricant to flow to the track surface.

WO 2005/071291

PCT/GB2005/000141

10

11. A seal according to claim 10, wherein the track has at least one aperture enabling the lubricant to flow to and into the material strip.
12. A seal according to claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the seal has a further aperture allowing lubricant to pass to neighbouring seals via a connection means.
13. A seal according to claim 12, wherein the connection means takes the form of a hollow tube.
14. A seal comprising a chamber for containing lubricant, the chamber having a path to allow flow of lubricant to an outer surface of the seal so to cool that surface, and the seal having at least one track detachably secured to, and extending along, the length of at least one surface the seal.
15. A seal according to claim 14, wherein the chamber comprises at least one longitudinal groove formed in the outer surface of the seal.
16. A seal adapted to contain a lubricant whose external surface is in part defined by a lengthwise extending track releasably secured to the remaining part or parts of the seal external surface.
17. A method of producing a seal adapted to contain a lubricant, the method comprising the steps of :
  - extruding a strip having a lubricant containing channel bordered on all but one surface by a cover formed integrally with the strip,
  - extruding an elongate track dimensioned to fit said one surface, and
  - detachably securing the track to the strip.

WO 2005/071291

PCT/GB2005/000141

11

18. A seal substantially as hereinbefore described as referred to in the accompanying drawings.
19. A method substantially as hereinbefore described as referred to in the accompanying drawings.